

# The GARZETTE

August, 1999

Volume 10, Issue 6



## Special points of interests:

- Bill Ahls, KE4EIH tells us all about **GARS** involvement with the annual Dacula Memorial Day Parade.
- Mike Swiderski, K4HBI puts out a call for action for us all to get involved in our hobby.
- Barry Zoll, N1TOQ gives us important safety tips about using generators.

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## The President's Pen

By David Adcock, KA4KKF

Boy, time flies when you're having fun. It is August already and time to help out our furry little friends. If you have never been to a dog show, you got to help out and stick around to see what some of these people do to their dogs. You'll get a kick out of it. I used to show dogs about 20 years ago in Virginia. It was the same then too. Yea, I used to help my wife with the dogs. She would show and I'd help groom them. If you can't make it in August give us a hand in September. Ike and Marty would appreciate it very much. Some of these shows have great lunches for us too.

I need input. More input as number 5 would say. If you have an idea



**GARS** President David Adcock, KA4KKF operates at Field Day 99.

Digital image by the **GARS** Field Day photo team.

for a club function, let's hear it. If you have a program idea, let's hear it. There is only one thing I ask from you. If you make suggestions, be prepared to help with the process. You don't have to do the program, just get the ball

rolling or help with it. The executive committee is getting some fresh ideas from you and we appreciate it very much. We're hoping to build it. So you can come to it. Why am I always saying that? I guess it's true. If we build it, they will come. Well, if every member of the club would turn out for a meeting, our meeting place would not hold everyone. Wouldn't that be a pretty picture? Well, we could have over half the club at our meeting place. That would be one for the record books. Who would like to try to contact all **GARS** members and ask if they are coming to the meeting? All you need is a roster from Geoffrey-Allen. How about it?

(Continued on page 2)

## GARS Field Day Results Online

By Ike Chapman, KE4GYM

The results from the **GARS** Field Day operation are now available online at the **GARS** web site, <http://www.gars.org>. Included are the scores as submitted to the ARRL along with statistics for each band and some op-

### Field Day 1999



erator statistics.

There are also a large selection of pictures taken by the Field Day photo team of Brian Siegmund, KF4MWI; Doug Kregrel, KB6RRX; and Ike Chapman, KE4GYM.





## The GARZETTE

The GARZETTE is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the amateur radio art.

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All correspondence relating to articles posted in The GARZETTE or for information concerning advertising rates should be directed to the following address:

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Attn: Newsletter Editor



# The President's Pen

(Continued from page 1)

Where were you 30 years ago? How many of you watched Neil Armstrong step on to the moon? That was great. I hope that just one of the 300+ members of our club has helped a young person to realize his or her dream. Boy, what a lead in. We are helping the scouts again this year and the club needs people to man radio stations and talk to the scouts about amateur radio.

I know this event is in October, but we need to plan for it now. When someone asks for help, please help. I hope to try a new antenna so we can use it in field day next year. You may think that you have nothing to offer, but everyone has a tale to tell. An experience you can share with the club. How did you install that HF rig in the car? What kind of antenna did you put up at the house? These are just a few questions, can you think of more.

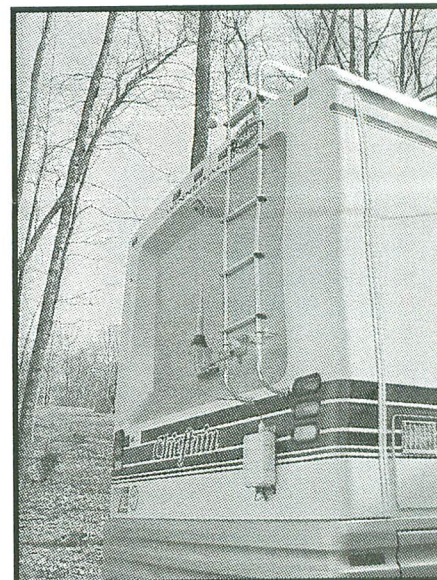
We're starting the fall classes soon and we need your help again. Can you teach or help teach a class on Tuesday night at the high school? This is a call for able-bodied men and women to step forward and help a new ham get started. GARS needs to help everyone in Gwinnett County that is looking to get their amateur radio license. Several people have told me, that Gwinnett County will not let any teachers start a radio club at the schools. What can GARS do? We need to find out what the policy is at every school and who would be interested in sponsoring a school. Who do you know?

I was working a new mode the other day and it was great.

Have you heard of PSK31? It's a great mode to play with. You use your sound card in your computer and this windows program that is free. Tune your radio to a signal and then you can use your mouse to fine tune. It doesn't have the sound of RTTY. It has its own special sound. It's not packet either. Hope to see you on PSK31.

I'd better finish this up and get on the radio. Time is a wasting. Let's make some more contacts.

73,  
David  
KA4KKF



## On The Road With KE4D

John Veach, KE4D shares a photo of his mobile HF antenna setup. The rig is an ICOM 706MKII. The white box is an ICOM AH4 tuner and the whip is ICOM's AH2B, mobile whip. It tunes 40m—6m while driving down the road.

Digital image by John Veach, KE4D.





# Dacula Memorial Day 1999

By Bill Ahls, KE4EIH

**GARS** was busy in Dacula for the Sixth Annual Dacula Memorial Day Parade. The weather was perfect for the best parade in Dacula with no previous rain or heat. A good time was had by all entrants and volunteers. We had a new record 24 members working this year. Dacula officials thank **GARS** members working the events David Rife, AD2Q; Joe Biddle, AD4PZ; Earl Whatley, AF4FG; Susan Swiderski, AF4FO; Mike Swiderski, K4HBI; Tom Dooley, K4TJD; David Adcock, KA4KKF; Doug Kregel, KB6RRX; Mark Kozma, KD3GC; Royce Stovall, KD4EXY; Rick Morris, KD4VOJ; Bill Ahls, KE4EIH; Ike Chapman, KE4GYM; Geoff Franklin, KE4IGD; Buddy Menshew, KE4YZS; Mike Campbell, KF4HLM; Brian Siegmud, KF4MWI; Robert Tyler, KF4VBR; Anita Morris, KG4AJX; Aaron Morris, KG4ALB; Anna Tyler, KG4ATH; Eric Schlender, KG4CQH; Winn Jackson, N1TWX; and Mike Zawlocki, WA4MJZ.

Parade participants were greeting by Buddy KE4YZS and directed toward Joe AD4PZ to get in the parade line-up positions. David KA4KKF, Mark KD3GC and Mike WA4MJZ did a good job helping the participants find their areas. Many other **GARS** members put the entrants in the final staging positions for the parade. We had the Morris, Swiderski, and Tyler clans all licensed and well represented. The rest of the **GARS** group made it to their parade positions waiting for the 10:00 a.m. parade, some with a job along the way. We seem to have a last second request for Run/Walk help this year and we will formally suggest help for next year. I thank the **GARS** members who tried to do double duty this year. The parade did get off on time this year. As the entrants were located and lined up

and moved, the parade began. We had City of Dacula, Gwinnett County, and some state representatives. We had **GARS** hams in the beginning, middle and end of the parade and along the route of the parade. We could use magnetic **GARS** signs for parade pick-up vehicles for next year. Could we have a **GARS** special event station? This year we took a group photo by the traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall replica. The parade had Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, beauty queens, missile launcher, antique cars, horse riders, civil war re-enactors, shriners and gymnastic stars. The parade was over in about an hour and a half as usual.

This is a technical note about the operation for anyone who would like to help next year. Basic communicating was 2-meter simplex over the few miles of terrain. We previously proved the longer half and 5/8 wave length "hotrod type" antennas had the most usable signals for this type of work. This is a trade off with some of the more fragile designs and dealing with the extra length to be potentially broken. A couple of watts was all the power required, with some operating on less. Those "fanny pack" bags are great for carry accessories and a small poncho (not needed this year!).

*(Editor's note: Pictures from the Dacula Memorial Day Parade are available online at the **GARS** web site, <http://www.gars.org>.)*



Bill Tacket, KN4N is looking for anyone with a Heath SB-102. He needs some information and can be contacted via email at [kn4n@aol.com](mailto:kn4n@aol.com).

## GARS

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# Meeting Minutes

By Mike Swiderski, K4HBI

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

July 15, 1999

## Meeting Minutes

David Adcock, KA4KKF, President, called the **GARS** meeting at Central Baptist Church to order at 1939 EDST. Club officers present: David Adcock, KA4KKF, President; Rick Morris, KD4VOJ, Vice President; Howie Gould, W4NVF, Activities; and Mike Swiderski, K4HBI, Secretary. Introduction, visitor and upgrade recognition, was followed by officer reports.

The June meeting minutes were accepted as published in **The GARZETTE**.

KF4NBD, Jeff Cutchins, Treasurer, was absent, however David presented the financial status as phoned in by Jeff with a current balance of \$2700 which included charges of \$1550 for field expenses. The report was accepted.

David made a request for filling two Alford club hamfest coordinator positions, club PR table and also a "bone yard" table. Geoffroy-Allen Franklin, membership chairman, accepted the position of the club PR table coordinator. There were no takers for the "bone yard" table coordinator and this position needs filling. The club will pay for the table and while someone "works" the table they may also vend their own stuff at the club table. Lets have the "bone yard" table coordinator position filled quickly, see any club officer.

David also displayed the W4GR QSL cards that Karl, K4GZZ, had made up for club usage. Thank you Karl for the great looking cards and the donation to **GARS**. They will surely be put to good use for the upcoming events.

Announcements were next on the agenda:

October 8 - 10: Sandy Creek Park Scout Event in Athens, GA: Earl, AF4FG, and Carter, KF4HLF,

will be the coordinators for this scouting event that will host 3-3.5 thousand registered scouts and maybe as many day visitors. An amateur radio station will be on site using the call K2BSA, so operators are needed. Marty will be bringing the **GARS** tower. This could be a mini field day as over night operation is permitted and must be coordinated through Earl or Carter to account for your presence. Remember the K2BSA and the QST PR will cause pile-ups on the radio by people who want this contact, expect nothing but a fun time.

The mention of the tower sparked the request for a 10 to 20 foot piece of 2 inch mast to replace the section on the tower that was bent. The current section was bent when the stored and collapsed tower and trailer were tipped over by high winds.

October 2: **GARS** Club Picnic and "Pig Roast" at Fort Yargo State Park: Marty, KE4MLH, will be the Master Chef of the event and even promised Brunswick Stew this year. All are welcome and Marty has requested the loan of 6 or 7 large coolers for food (pork) storage. Additional coolers will be necessary the day of the picnic for drink storage and cooling. There was even talk of setting up a station at the picnic for added fun. On site camping is available as long as you reserve your space through the GA. State Parks Reservation Line. Come the day before, camp with Marty and the crew, help with the cooking and story telling, and even do some waterside operating.

October 16: JOTA Scouting Event, as soon as the location is determined more information will follow, but keep this day open to help introduce local area scouts to amateur radio.

The August 27-29<sup>th</sup> as well as the September 23-26<sup>th</sup> dog shows

are approaching. Sign-up sheets were passed around. There will be two shifts a day, 5:30 to 10 am and 10 am to 2 pm. An HT will be given away via a drawing to participants in the event. Tickets for the drawing are earned at the rate of one ticket per shift worked, work three shifts, get three tickets, etc. There will be at least 25 volunteers needed for each shift.

The use of amateur radio for these events has been questioned based on the pecuniary nature of the events. An email to the FCC remained unanswered, so Ike, KE4GYM, contacted Riley Hollingsworth and was directed to Bill Cross. Bill stated that since each individual participating in the event was using his/her own call-sign and was not receiving a pecuniary interest, there was no violation of Part 97 rules. The donation given to the club by the show organizers would be similar to any other civic organization receiving a donation for providing assistance. Therefore, communications will be conducted as at previous events.

David, KA4KKF, stated that the unbudgeted September dog proceeds should be considered for a club trailer to house the club property.

Education: David, KA4KKF, and Win, N1TWX, discussed the upcoming Central Gwinnett High School **GARS** sponsored classes that are to kick off Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> and last for 7 weeks. The classes will terminate the Tuesday before Howie's VE testing session held on Friday so as to allow a good flow for the students' pursuit of a license or upgrade. Classes are planned for no-code tech, general, advanced, and extra theory, depending on number of participants. Although Win will teach a class, six other volunteer instructors

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## Meeting Minutes

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are needed, three to commit to the classes and three backup instructors. See or contact Win Jackson, N1TWX to help.

Continuing with the education theme, Win and Robert, KF4VBR, petitioned the **GARS** club to sponsor an 8 week class that will be starting in August on Sunday afternoons for the youth (age 10-18) of the Harmony Grove United Methodist Church in Lilburn. The instructors are already established and the sponsorship would entail the providing the normal consideration of a one-year membership in **GARS** when successful completion is attained, passing the test and getting the license.

Rick, KD4VOJ, informed the membership of the approval of the request for **GARS** to sponsor and provide the \$20 fee for a "Venture" Scout Group. **GARS** will sponsor the group under the direction of Victor Gantz, KG4DMW, and the scout leaders who are also **GARS** members, such as Rick, Carter, Earl and Nova. Any member that would like to get involved with this association please contact any of the above.

David, KA4KKF, made a plea to the membership for any type activity, program, etc. requests be forwarded to the club officers. This is your club, what would you like to see done?

Susan, AF4FO, said there are still some "I Survived Field Day" tee shirts left for sale (\$9), any one wanting one or more please contact Susan.

David introduced Geoffroey-Allen, KE4IGD, the Membership Chairman, who submitted the following for membership:

Roger D Kuykendall, K5YJB  
Michael D Pierce, KG4DMX  
Harry K Kilpatrick, N8GUV

These good folks were accepted into the **GARS** "family" by

all.

At this time David introduced the program as being by **GARS** own Ike, KE4GYM. Ike's interesting and informative program was supposed to be in two parts, the summary of the **GARS** Field Day 99 score results and the **GARS** "Onelist" mail server. Ike recapped the FD scores per band, mode, operator, and overall. The scores and other info can be viewed on the web site. The ins and outs of letting the Onelist server maintain the email list and provide a one source broadcast feature was discussed. What appeared to me to be the third topic was the FAQ and Q&A session Ike held on emailing, myths, hoaxes, viruses, bots, spiders, etc. Well done Ike, very much enjoyed while providing a lot of relevant and needed info.

David and Marty also reminded folks about the 6M repeater net on Wednesdays at 2100 local on the 53.11-1 **GARS** 6M repeater. The net is doing well and could use a few more check-ins. If there is a desire to help as net control, please contact either the **GARS** Net Manager - AF4FO, Susan Swiderski or the 6M Net Manager - KE4MLH, Marty Fowler.

The prize drawing was enjoyed by most, especially the winners: KE4EIH, Bill, and KG4CQH, Eric.

David called the meeting to a close at 2120 EDST.

73, Notes as heard and scribed, any misspelling and erroneous information is the computer's fault. Respectively submitted Mike Swiderski, K4HBI



## Random Ramblings

"At no time is freedom of speech more precious than when a man hits his thumb with a hammer." - Marshall Lumsden

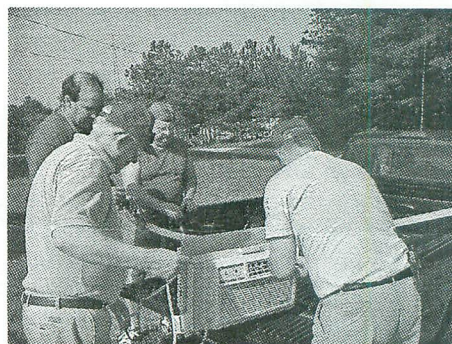


## Main Repeater Gets a New AC

Photos by Ike Chapman, KE4GYM



Paul, K4HCM and Jack, WU4H work to remove the old AC from the main repeater shack.



Paul, K4HCM, Barry, N1TOQ, Charlie, KF4KDF, and David, KA4KKF prepare the new unit for installation.



David, KA4KKF secures the new AC





# Attention: Geezers and Newbies

## Ham Radio Evolution

By Mike Swiderski

Got your attention – hopefully - do not stop reading until you get to the end, this article is not to make fun of, nor for anyone to take offense at, but if you see yourself - there is still time before the Ghost of Christmas Future smokes your finals. The following is my interpretation of an item discussed at the July executive board meeting. Still haven't got a clue what this is about yet. This is about Hams, I was going to say old and new, however we have new that are old and new that are new, so I had better say experienced versus lesser experienced. How is the state of ham radio today? WHOA!! This is a rhetorical question and it is my article, so quiet down and read on.

Ham radio is a public service hobby and a lot like baseball, once the home plate is crossed the run goes down on the score sheet, could have been a homer or a walk with errors; it still counts. Now how is that like ham radio? Just like the qualifications for the various license classes. Same way the controversy over who was better, Ruth or Aaron?? Different times, different places, different technologies, a discussion whose only value is only to increase global warming. What is he trying to say??

Experienced or inexperienced, we are all amateur radio operators passing the current requirements of the FCC to get our licenses. Just because you can peak a grid and dip a plate doesn't mean you know what is going on in your CPU in the Auto tune function of your Alkenatsu 5000 XGB transceiver, and vice versa. How did the experienced people get that way and still be alive? There were people around to answer your questions. Used to be something called "Elmers", not the white glue, but rather an in-



dividual that took you aside and straighten all that book learning out, and also tell you where not to put your fingers and why.

In today's society there have been many changes that diversify people as opposed to bringing them together, consequently the tutoring of the old to the new has fallen somewhat by the way side. **GARS** can be the means of bringing people back together based on a common thread, amateur radio. More like a family than a club, **GARS**, being such a fantastic club, should also stand for and be known for education of our own. I am not just talking about education in the form of license classes, which gives you enough knowledge to be dangerous beyond being an appliance operator. Do you know that there are hams in the club that do not know how to solder and there are some that do not know what FDISK means or reset does.

ANY given person in our club has an expertise that the others may not. I can only speak from experience; I had a partial Elmer, but the majority I learned by myself through trial and error (error = smoke). How and why did I feel I could learn on my own, my Elmer taught me a lot of basics which are applicable across most areas which

gave me the "tools" to quench my curiosity. Today we have people taking an eight-week (eight 2 hour classes) course; they pass their test and are thrown into the shark pit. The next time you think how dummed down the tests are or how little knowledge is required, you sit down without a book and draw a vacuum tube Pierce Oscillator or explain in detail what are the RF exposure limits. Then think of which has the most value today to amateur radio. A point I am trying to make is that, useful knowledge can be time dependent, but there are ways to use that knowledge to better the hobby, the station, and ourselves. So instead of commenting on how dumb something is, I challenge you to show or teach some one the better or correct ways to do or think about things.

Every ham knows the formula for a  $\frac{1}{2}$  wave dipole and can probably measure the wire out, but how do you tie the pieces together and still have it work in the morning or even ten years from now after weather exposure. Or how much does it really take to make an outdoor 2 meter ground plane for repeater work with an HT, especially for those that do not have the means to "run to the Candy Store" and chunk down the change for "wooferwow 900 dB gain DX grabber". Lets get back to the heartland of our **GARS** family, ourselves and our abilities. Let us build some stuff cheaply to make an effective item, let us learn about something as to the why and how, instead of reading the shipping box label claims.

Remember, the antenna seminars on quads, dipole building sessions, "Rookie Radio", and "Howie Lab" projects of years past. They were fun times where people

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# Attention: Geezers and Newbies

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learned a lot. Step back and think when you attended any of these, probably now you could teach the subject, but you had to learn it somewhere. These sessions sort of faded with time and volunteers. Then the magnificent idea of "TECHFEST" blossomed into a renowned and applauded event. What is Techfest, it is a collection of short form show and tells covering many aspects of ham radio and has become the talk of Atlanta while even drawing hill folk and flatlanders from all directions. This is great for the **GARS** folks and many others as an appetizer to try some new things, how to go about doing something different, or how to get by a whole lot cheaper and better than store bought.

So far this has been a lot of words to set a stage of mind. How about we start "home schooling" our own family - **GARS**. How about extending the Saturday breakfast time so that right afterwards there could be a short seminar, antenna, or project building. Don't do breakfast, maybe an afternoon or evening get together at the J&A, local firehouse, Waffle House, etc. for something similar. How about instead of grazing the bar at the Golden Corral before the meeting, you brown bag your favorite meal, sandwich, sub, burger, pizza, etc. and have a parking lot picnic and seminar session.

There are many basics that can be covered, and there are many special interests that the whole club may not have an interest in, that could be discussed during these seminars, chats, or training sessions (ie. QRP, QRPP, SSTV, PSK31, Packet, Logging Programs, Generators, Satellite operation, wide bandwidth dipoles, 80 M

beams, old rigs, ad infinitum). These may be interests to small groups that really do not need to form their own club, but does give a chance to meet, discuss, teach, and answer questions, especially for those that want to know more or even give it a try. The intent is not to make formal club programs in front of those that could care less, but actually short, maybe one time or more question and answer sessions or show and tells outside of the normal meeting time. The special interest that you have may be similar to others interests, and here would be a chance to learn just by chatting about it with others.

Yeah - Good - Neat - Wow - Cool - 23 Skidoo (Howie)

How does this happen? First, EACH and EVERY member must think of something that they do not know but would maybe like to know a little bit more about, write them down (many somethings would be wonderful also). Second, got some friends that share a common special interest, that enjoy talking about it, write them down. Made a quiet disparaging remark to yourself or friends about a conversation or QSO you heard that was just "full of it", write it down. Ideas you would like to learn about, write them down. Any topics you have questions on, write them down.

Great, now that I got all these scraps of paper, what do I do with them? Toss them in file thirteen, just kidding, give them to the club officer of your choice, mail to the P. O. Box, signed or anonymous - no matter. It would be great to get a wide response so that we can help "home school" our own family especially in a fun and comfortable way on topics of interest.

You realize that when a couple or more hams get together they end up on a subject that is usually of interest to more than just them, this is just what is being looked for, have your conversation at a planned time so more can listen, learn, and maybe contribute.

OK, you experienced folks, old

goats, geezers, whoever, that know it all and do not need these sessions. WRONG, these sessions need you, how about giving back to the amateur fraternity what it rewarded you with - rich rewarding experiences, smiles, laughter, an audience to tell that story to, and a chance to show those RF burns and maybe with a little fact mixed in. Help these folks learn more about something, and you know, every time I have tried this, by gosh I fooled myself into learning something new myself.

Help out, send in your wishes, and think about you and your buds sitting down and have a Q&A session with some folks. Also say you have a helpful small project that is just cool beans (like turning that old dead computer power supply into a workbench power supply with light), how about sharing it through something like a "Howie Lab" where you help some others build one or maybe just discuss it. How about one or more someone's putting together "Rookie Radio" topics, projects or articles for The GARZETTE. One does not have to know it all in the subject area for these sessions, but maybe just be a moderator so everyone gets a chance to talk and listen.

Lets put some thought, time, helping, and by gosh we might learn something in to a fun filled friendship-making time. Any volunteers however small or large - contact a club officer. Don't just sit there - do something!!!

❖❖❖

## Random Ramblings

"Nostalgia isn't what it used to be." — Peter de Vries

"If Patrick Henry thought that taxation without representation was bad, he should see how bad it is with representation."

--Farmer's Almanac, 1966

❖❖❖



# On The Air With Larry Thill, W4LJT

By Karl Phillips, K4GZZ

This month's On The Air features one of our newest hams and also one of the newest members of **GARS**.

Larry Thill, W4LJT, was born in St. Paul, Minnesota and attended both grammar and high school there. Immediately following graduation from high school, Larry was hired by the 3M Company and worked in their distribution center. He was then transferred to their Janitorial Division so he could go to school full time during the day. In 1980, Larry was promoted to their microfilm engineering group, where he worked until 1985. With the merger of 3M and Harris/Lanier, Larry relocated to the company's home office here in Atlanta in 1986.

Larry was then exposed to Jack Herndon, WU4H and thus, exposed to the wonderful world of amateur radio. With Larry's office close to Jack's and Joe Biddle, AD4PZ, Larry was soon exposed to the constant chatter about the club and all the other ham jargon being tossed between Jack and Joe. He got curious and interested in the hobby and thus the ham radio fever began. Larry, with the guidance of his Elmer, Jack Herndon, WU4H, then set out to get his ham ticket. Larry took the nine-week technician class sponsored by **GARS** and took the test with Howie, W4NVF a few days early, before even finishing the technician class. Larry passed and became KG4CED. Later on, Larry applied for and was granted his vanity call of W4LJT. Larry is also very interested in getting into packet. However, this is not Larry's first taste of the radio bug.

In the 1970's, Larry and his dad were involved in CB radio and had several mobile units and a base station. Larry decided he wanted to get into the building kits aspect of radio and had plans to build a Heathkit amateur radio.



Larry Thill, W4LJT (L) operating on the 20 meter phone station with Jack Herndon, WU4H at **GARS** Field Day 1999.

When he found out he couldn't operate it once he built it because he didn't have a ham ticket, he abandoned the idea. He did, however, build some crystal units and radio-controlled units. Larry is now working on his code speed so he can upgrade. By passing his technician test, Larry gets one-year free membership to the club. After that year, Larry has full intentions of becoming a paying member of the club. He likes the club and the friendliness and willingness of the club member to help him learn more about amateur radio. Larry says some club members have even offered free use of a rig if he needs it. Larry plans on working some of the **GARS** activities this year and did work the March of Dimes event.

Larry has other hobbies too. Larry likes just about anything to do with aviation. He has flown radio-controlled aircraft and says that he plans to resume his lessons for getting his pilots license. Larry has also logged about 2.1 million miles in the air with about 15 different airlines in his business travels with Lanier Worldwide. He has traveled to 14 countries in Europe and Asia and has flown to Japan 40 times.

Larry is also interested in non-contact sports such as golf and bike riding. Like me, he does like to watch contact sports such as my favorite.... Hockey!! Yeah, a little high sticking and crosschecking never hurt anybody! Especially when your in the lazy boy watching it on TV.

Larry and his wife, Shari have been married for 23 years and have a daughter, Jodi, who is a sophomore at Georgia Perimeter College. Larry and Shari have been good friends to Jack, WU4H and his wife and family since Larry and Shari arrived in Atlanta in 1986.

As far as radio goes, Larry has a Kenwood TMV7A mobile rig and a Yaesu VX5R. He also has a dual band vertical on the house. His next goal is to buy a good H.F. rig and he is very interested in the Yaesu FT-847 or FT-100.

Since I also work for Lanier Worldwide, Larry and I have crossed paths before at work. Now that he is a ham and we know we share the same interests, it has been a real pleasure to get to know Larry away from the work environment. I have found Larry to be a very outgoing person and you can really tell he is having a great time with the hobby of ham radio, and he's just scratching the surface. It would be a great move on your part to get to know Larry. He's a real nice guy.

This interview was so much fun I think I'll do it again next month !!! See you then and best 73 to all.

Karl - K4GZZ





# Generators From A To Z

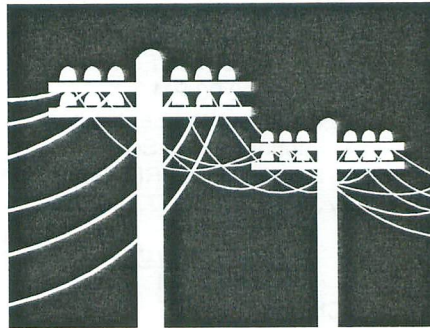
By Barry Zoll, N1TOQ

In previous articles, we've discussed the theory of how generators make electricity and the steps you must take to determine the best generator for your needs. The next step, and the most important one, is generator safety.

Your portable generator contains and burns gasoline, generates electricity, and creates heat. Any of these items, when mishandled, will cause serious injury or death. When you combine them and misuse them, you have a recipe for disaster.

So, you've just unloaded your brand new generator from your vehicle and you to "see what she'll do". The first question you need to ask yourself is, "where should I run it"? Portable generators are not designed to run in any type of enclosure. These units need plenty of air to cool them and for the engine's combustion process, but they also must be kept out of the weather. One arrangement that we've successfully used at Field Day is to set the generator under a "funeral tent". This tent is open on all four sides and allows for adequate airflow. Keep in mind that if the tent is too low and close to the generator, it may facilitate the accumulation of deadly exhaust gases. Never run a generator in a building and never modify the fuel system, air intake, or exhaust. As hams we love to modify our radios, but never be tempted to modify your generator.

The next step is to determine which method to use for electrically connecting your generator to a building. Many people use the "extension cord through the window" method. This "high-tech" hook-up will work but it is very messy and somewhat dangerous. It also has the potential of cause damage to whatever it is powering due to voltage drops that occur with long runs of light duty gauge wire.



The best way to make this connection is to use a transfer switch.

The purpose of a transfer switch is to isolate the generator from the line power. When a power outage occurs, your local utility company will dispatch a lineman to investigate and repair. This is extremely dangerous work (ask Junior) and these men and women take every precaution to avoid an accident. I don't want to describe any unsafe stand-by hook-ups but keep in mind that if you attempt to back feed generator power into your house without the use of a transfer switch (installed by a licensed electrician, not a do-it-yourself project), you may be responsible for seriously injuring or killing someone. Besides saving lives, the transfer switch aids in balancing the load on your generator. Depending on the type of switch you purchase, you will select circuits in your home that you'd like to power during an outage. The most economical switches require manual operation while the automatic type (for you couch potatoes) will start the generator and make the switch on its own. The automatic switches will also start the generator at a programmed interval to "exercise it" so the generator will be ready when you need it. These automatic switches are very expensive (I'd

rather buy another rig!). As far as grounding the generator, consult with a local electrical or building inspector for recommendation.

Now you are ready to start your generator. Make sure the children and animals are away from the area and that the oil level is okay. Turn the main breaker off and the fuel valve on and start your engine. When the engine warms up and the RPM's are stabilized, turn on the breaker. Whew! That was a lot of work to get to that point.

When your generator needs refueling, heed warning: **SHUT THE MAIN BREAKER OFF, AND SHUT DOWN THE ENGINE!!!!** The few seconds of the Jerry Springer Show that you'll miss is a small sacrifice for safety. Besides this is a good time to check the oil level.

I anticipated this to be the final article in this series; however, we have not yet discussed generator maintenance so I'll see you again next month.



## Random Ramblings

"For every complex problem, there is a solution that is simple, neat, and wrong." — H. L. Mencken

"The only thing wrong with immortality is that it tends to go on forever." — Herb Caen

"A citizen of America will cross the ocean to fight for democracy, but won't cross the street to vote in a national election." — Bill Vaughn

"If I had only known, I would have been a locksmith."

— Albert Einstein





## **Metro Atlanta Club Meetings**

### **First Tuesday**

#### **Metro Atlanta Telephone Pioneers**

Old Hickory House  
5490 Chamblee/Dunwoody Rd, Dunwoody  
Dutch dinner is at 6:30 PM, followed by meeting.  
Talk In 145.410(-)

#### **Kennehoochee ARC**

First United Methodist Church in Marietta  
Meeting begins at 7:30 PM  
Talk In 146.880(-)

### **First Thursday**

#### **Atlanta Radio Club**

American Red Cross Building, Lindberg Plaza  
Meeting is at 7:30 PM  
Talk In -146.820(-)

#### **N.E. Georgia ARC**

Jefferson Civic Center  
Off of Memorial Dr. toward Winder from Jefferson  
Meeting is at 6:30 PM  
Talk In - 147.225(+)

### **Second Wednesday**

#### **North Fulton Amateur Radio League**

Ryan's Steak House  
Alpharetta Highway (Hwy 9), Alpharetta  
Dinner at 6:30 PM, meeting at 7:30 PM  
Talk In - 145.47(-)

### **Second Thursday**

#### **Alford Memorial Radio Club**

Killian Hall, Killian Hill Road  
Lilburn  
Dinner at 6:00 PM, meeting at 7:30 PM  
Talk In - 146.760(-)

### **Second Saturday**

#### **East Atlanta LAN**

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church  
Dunwoody  
Meeting is at 10:00 AM  
Talk In - 145.410(-) and 443.025(+)

### **Third THURSDAY**



**Gwinnett**

**Amateur Ra-**

#### **dio Society**

Central Baptist Church  
Gwinnett Drive  
Lawrenceville

Meeting begins at 7:30 PM in the fellowship hall.  
Talk In -147.075(+) and 444.525(+)



## **Metro Atlanta VE Exam Schedule**

GARS publishes Metro Atlanta area VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions.

### **First Sunday**

WCARS VEC  
2:00 PM  
(Except July and September)  
Johnson High School  
3305 Poplar Springs RD, Gainesville  
Terry Jones, W4TL (770)967-6364

### **First Saturday**

9:00AM  
Clayton County Emergency  
Management Building  
7496 N. McDonough St., Jonesboro  
George White, KN4NG (770)361-6850

### **Second Tuesday**

7:00PM  
Walton EMC  
3645 Lenora Church Rd, Snellville  
Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA  
(770)498-7759

### **Second Saturday**

CA VEC  
8:30 AM  
Stone Mountain Methodist Church  
5312 West Mountain St.  
Stone Mountain  
Hal Martin, KI4RD  
(770)978-9160

### **Third Saturday**

CA VEC  
9:00AM  
Marietta First United Methodist Church  
Room 305, 56 Whitlock Ave  
Marietta  
Larry Huff, WA4CQZ  
(770)955-3171

### **Fourth Tuesday**

ARRL VEC  
7:00 PM  
United Way Service Center  
6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville  
Jessie Clower, KB4WFK  
(770)942-6466.

### **Fourth Friday**

W5YI VEC  
7:00 PM  
St. John Neumann Church  
801 Tom Smith Road  
Lilburn  
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Howie Gould, W4NVF  
(770)921-8362



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## GARS Communication System

**6 Meter Repeater**  
53.110 (-1 MHz) MHz  
82.5 PL

Main Repeater Site  
Oak Street, Lawrenceville

**2 Meter Repeater**  
147.075(+) MHz  
82.5 PL

Main Repeater Site  
Oak Street, Lawrenceville  
Backup Repeater Site  
Lanier Mountain, Snellville  
Remote Receive Sites  
Bogan Road, Buford  
Goshen Springs Road, Norcross  
Lanier Mountain, Snellville

**70 Cm Repeater**  
444.525(+) MHz  
82.5 PL  
Main Repeater Site  
Lanier Mountain, Snellville  
Remote Receive Sites  
Under construction  
Bogan Road, Buford  
Goshen Springs Road, Norcross

**APRS**  
144.390 -- 1200 Baud  
W4GR/Relay



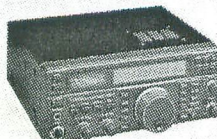
## 12 Store Buying Power!



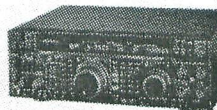
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• Tx 100W 150-6M, 50W 2M, 20W 70CM  
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• 1.5W standby  
• 5W option  
• Alpha-numeric display  
• Compact & back lit keypad  
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2M/440 Dual-Band HT  
• 200 Memory Channels  
• 5W output  
• Receives 76-99MHz plus AM BCD  
• Call Band Blocker  
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Call Now For Your Low Price!



**FT-50RD**  
2M/440MHz Compact HT  
• DMR, Decode, Paging Built-in  
• Alpha numeric display  
• Wide Band receive  
• Battery Saver  
• 112 Memories  
• M1-Spec  
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Call For Your Low Pricing!



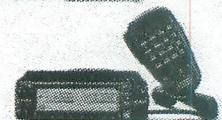
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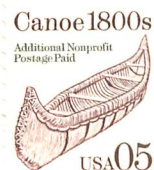
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## Back Page Story Headline

This month I'm going to trade in my editor's eyeshade for my event coordinator's cap. Marty Fowler, KE4MLH and I are the coordinators for the upcoming fund raising events and we need your help and participation. Each year **GARS** participates in three major fund raising events and two of those are coming up in August and September.

I'm speaking of course of our work with the dog shows. For those new members, each February, August and September there are large multi-day dog shows put on by local kennel clubs. Each show is put on by a group of three kennel clubs, the February and August shows are the same group, and the September is a different group. The kennel clubs have contacted us to coordinate their parking lot and control the



front gate. For our assistance, they in turn make a nice donation to the club's coffers allowing us to put on events such as Field Day, the annual Pig Roast and Picnic, and Christmas Party.

The operation requires about 25 to 30 people per shift and we run two shifts per day, 5:30 AM to 10 AM and 10 AM to 2 PM. We have

quite a number of folks that will work multiple shifts and more than a few work all days and all shifts. As part of our operation, we take everyone that works at least one shift and put their name in the hat for each shift they work and then we have a drawing for a new HT at the following month club meeting.

The dates for the upcoming shows are August 27, 28, and 29 and September 24, 25, 26, and 27. It's a good opportunity to support the club and you'll have a great time working with fellow club members. So, please take time to check your schedule and let either Marty or myself hear from you so we can fill out the work schedule soon.

